



# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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UN Security Council members listen as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks via a video conference call on Thursday | AFP

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## IN A FIRST, INDIA VOTES AGAINST RUSSIA ON UKRAINE AT UNSC

The UN Security Council held a procedural vote on Thursday on Ukrainian president's virtual participation in its meeting

## RUSSIA OPPOSES LEADER'S VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Russian demanded a procedural vote on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's virtual participation in a UNSC meeting called to take stock of the Ukraine war. Russia insisted it does not oppose his participation, but said he must attend the meeting in person. Backing Zelenskyy, Albania said he can't leave Ukraine as the war situation requires him to be there

## 13 OF 15 MEMBERS VOTE AGAINST RUSSIA

In the 15-member UNSC, India and 12 other countries voted to let Zelenskyy participate in the meeting through video teleconference. While Russia voted against it, China abstained. Later, Zelenskyy in his remarks to the UNSC called for Russia to be held accountable for its crime of aggression against Ukraine

December  
WHEN INDIA'S TWO-YEAR TERM AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ENDS

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## Ferozepur SSP indicted for lax security to PM

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

A five-member judicial committee appointed by the Supreme Court that probed the alleged security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab in January last, indicted the then Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police for the slip up. Retired Supreme Court judge Indu Malhotra headed the panel.

Reading from its report, a bench led by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Thursday said the Punjab police officer had failed to discharge his duties of maintaining law and order or taking any steps for deploying additional force for strengthening the security.

"The SSP Ferozepur Harmandeep Singh Hans failed to discharge his duty to maintain law and order. He failed to do this even though sufficient force was available and even though he was informed two hours before that the PM will enter that route," the bench said citing the report.

The panel recommended the formation of an "Oversight Committee" for periodic revision of the Blue Book that deals with VVIP security. On Jan 5, Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover allegedly due to a blockade by farmers in Ferozepur. This had resulted in the PM returning from Punjab without attending any event.

In a late night development, the report got uploaded on the SC website but was taken down, resealed and kept in the custody of the SC Secretary General. The bench directed the Registry to send a copy of the report to the state and Central governments for further action.

WITH THIS ISSUE  
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE  
INDULGE  
34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF THE ISSUE (TABLET)

## Poll panel recommends Soren disqualification

Speculation within the JMM on CM's wife Kalpana as his successor

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND Chief Minister Hemant Soren appeared to be on his way out on Thursday as the Election Commission of India (ECI) is understood to have recommended his disqualification as a legislator to Governor Ramesh Bais. Raj Bhavan, however, did not officially confirm the receipt of the ECI's report.

Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 bars lawmakers from entering into any contract with the government for supply of goods or execution of works undertaken by it. Yet, Soren brazenly granted himself a stone mining lease, which put him in big trouble.

Under Article 192 of the Constitution, the governor can take his call on an MLA's disqualification only after seeking the poll panel's view.

There was speculation right through the day as Governor Ramesh Bais arrived in the city but was evasive. "I was in AIMS, Delhi for two days. I will be in a position to make a decision only when I reach Raj Bhavan," he said at the airport.

## Martyrs' kin to get only govt job, no ₹50 lakh, site

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE KARNATAKA cabinet on Thursday decided to give government jobs to family members of martyrs, but will not give ex-gratia and other facilities. This has come in for sharp criticism by ex-servicemen.

Law Minister JC Madhuswamy told reporters that the cabinet had approved giving government jobs to family members or dependents of martyrs, under compensatory grounds.

They will not get 60x40 sqft sites and Rs 50 lakh, and this will be applicable to all those who have not availed of aid from the State government, he said.

"In Karnataka, there are over



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren gestures to media after a cabinet meeting | PM



Till the time of filing this report, the JMM hadn't received any communication from the governor indicating his decision on the matter, keeping the party on tenterhooks.

The day began with BJP MP Nishikant Dubey claiming the ECI had recommended Soren's

disqualification in the office-for-profit case. The JMM hit back, demanding Dubey's disqualification.

Amid the swirling uncertainty, the JMM called its legislative party meeting on Friday to deal with the emerging situation. If Soren is disqualified, it will not only push him out of power but also increase instability in the government at a time when the BJP is allegedly waiting to poach lawmakers from the ruling coalition.

While the JMM went ballistic against the BJP, a senior leader admitted, "There is an inherent danger that the ECI would also debar Soren from contesting any election for a certain time period." In such a situation, either Soren's wife Kalpana or JMM patriarch Shibu Soren could be the successor, he added. Parallely, the JMM leadership was preparing for a legal challenge.

On February 10, a BJP delegation gave the governor a memorandum demanding the disqualification of Soren. Taking cognizance of it, the governor forwarded the matter to the poll panel for its opinion.

## PUNISHMENT

## Case against city school for physical abuse of 4-yr-old

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

THE police have registered a complaint against Bishop Cotton Boys School, following allegations of physical abuse against a four-year-old boy.

The child's parent, Rivu Chakraborty, told TNIE that his son had been repeatedly hit for "being naughty" in class by his teacher, only a week after classes began in July.

Following numerous complaints from his son and a meeting with school authorities, Chakraborty approached Cubbon Park Police Station to register a complaint against the school.

The police registered a non-cognisable report (NCR) against the school on August 18.

CONTINUED ON: P3



Police inspect the mangled remains of the MUV, which met with a gruesome accident on NH-48, killing nine people, in Tumakuru district on Thursday | EXPRESS

## 9 killed, 13 injured in Tumakuru accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

IN a ghastly accident, nine people, including three women and two children, died on the spot and 13 others were injured when a multi-utility vehicle (MUV) jumped over a median and was hit by a lorry from behind at Balenahalli Gate on NH-48 near Sira early on Thursday morning.

The accident drew the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu. "The accident in Tumakuru district, Karnataka is heart-rending. Condolences to the bereaved families. Prayers with the injured. Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be paid to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be paid Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai too announced Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of deceased and said the treatment cost of the injured would be borne by the government.

"The loss of lives, including

that of children and women, in a road accident in Tumakuru, Karnataka is extremely unfortunate. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," tweeted Murmu.

The MUV was carrying migrant families from remote villages of Kalaburagi and Raichur districts to Bengaluru.

There were 24 people, including 10 women and six children, in the MUV when the accident occurred. The survivors said the driver was dozing off on the wheel and lost control while trying to overtake a truck. The MUV jumped over the median and was hit by the speeding lorry around 3.30 am. The MUV was tossed into the air and toppled killing the nine people instantly. Two of the injured, who are critical, were shifted to NIM-HANS, while the rest were admitted to the district general hospital.

"We were daily wage workers and bound to Bengaluru to earn a living," said a survivor, Shivaraju (18), who is a school dropout.

P5

## Sonali Phogat

MURDERED DURING COA TRIP?

Though the cause of her death was given as heart attack, an autopsy report on Thursday revealed "multiple blunt force injuries" on her body. Police filed murder charges on two associates



P5

## NDTV say SEBI nod needed to buy Roys' stake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

EMBATTLED news channel NDTV on Thursday cited a market regulator bar in a different matter to at least temporarily ward off predatory attempts by the Adani group to acquire management control over the company. Analysts feel this may escalate into a legal war over NDTV's ownership.

NDTV claimed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had barred its founder-promoters for two years from dealing in their shares directly or indirectly. The two-year flat expires on November 26.

In other words, the Adanis would need prior SEBI approval to secure 99.5% interest in the promoter group RRPR, controlled by Prannoy and Radhika Roy. For, "this would lead to acquisition of voting rights in respect of 29.18% of the issued share capital of Target Company (RRPR)," NDTV said.

The claim comes two days after the Adani Group announced its indirect acquiring of 29% stake in NDTV after which it had asked the holding firm — RRPR — to transfer by Thursday all its equity shares to Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL), controlled by Adani.

"It has now come down to the minutes of the previous order by SEBI in 2019 and by the Securities Appellate Tribunal this year. SEBI's order appears to be against the Roys for insider trading and isn't applicable to RRPR holdings. However, they are using everything to avoid the takeover and the matter seems to be heading to court," a top lawyer told this daily.

## EXPRESS READ

### Monsoon session from September 12 to 22

Bengaluru: The monsoon session of the state legislature will be held from Sept 12 to 22. The session is likely to be stormy as the Opposition Congress is set to take on the Basavaraj Bommai government on several issues. P4

## NEP to be implemented from coming year: Govt

Bengaluru: The National Education Policy 2020 will be implemented from the coming academic year for children aged three to six, said Education Minister BC Nagesh on Thursday, during a joint presser with Women and Child Development Minister Halappa Achar. P2

## State to get seven new universities

Bengaluru: Karnataka is slated to get seven new universities. The state cabinet on Thursday approved upgrading the existing PG centres in Chamarajanagara, Bidar, Haveri, Kodagu, Koppal, Hassan and Bagalkot districts, to universities. P4

## 5 PHONES INFECTED; NO PEGASUS CLARITY

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

PERUSING a report submitted by a committee it constituted to look into the allegations of unauthorised surveillance using Pegasus software, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed that the Centre was not cooperative with the panel.

"(In) one sentence committee has observed that the Government of India was not cooperative and whatever stand you had taken here you had also taken there," Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said. The bench noted that the technical committee said that out of 29 phones it examined, five contained some malware but there was no conclusive evidence on finding Pegasus, a phone-hacking tool hawked by Israeli company NSO Group.

The final report comprised three parts: digital images of phones examined, report of the technical committee and report by the

overseeing judge Justice Raveendran. Justice Raveendran's report recommended enhancing the country's cyber security and establishing mechanisms for citizens to raise grievances.

The court said it would make Justice Raveendran's report public. On the technical committee's report, which also contains confidential material extracted from examined mobiles, the bench will decide which parts could be made public. The matter will now be considered after four weeks.

In October last year, the court had appointed the technical committee comprising three members under the supervision of Justice Raveendran to look into the allegations of illegal surveillance using Pegasus.

In a late night development, the report got uploaded on the SC website but was taken down, resealed and kept in custody of the SC Secretary General.



## Maintain status quo on Idgah Maidan, says HC



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PASSING directions to maintain a status quo on the disputed Idgah Maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday said the land should be used as a playground, while the Muslim community can of-

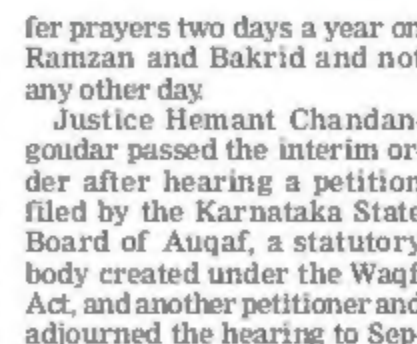
fer prayers two days a year on Ramzan and Bakrid and not any other day.

Justice Hemant Chandan-goudar passed the interim order after hearing a petition filed by the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, a statutory body created under the Waqf Act, and another petitioner and adjourned the hearing to Sep-

tember 23, 2022.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike joint commissioner on August 6, 2022 rejected the petitioner's application to register a khata by computerising the property measuring 2 acres 5 guntas in Survey No. 40 in the name of Karnataka State Wakf Board.

CONTINUED ON: P2



(From left) Rahul Rawat, Tanveer Ahmed and Anirudh Sharma

The data for 96% is still missing," said Digantara chief operating officer Rahul Rawat, who is only 23 years old.

Digantara, which is incubated at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science, sent out a small satellite, a payload about the

"size of a shoe box", according to the start-up's CEO Anirudh Sharma, on June 30 this year to gather information on space weather, including radiation, violent storms and other phenomena that can be potentially harmful for spacecraft and burn or fry them.

While this lone satellite has been sending out data to ground sensors, Rawat pointed to the Elon Musk's SpaceX Starlink constellation of 40 of 49 satellites that were "lost in a single blow" when they encountered a gigantic "solar paroxysm" that burned the spacecraft and cost the company \$100 million in

February 2022.

It is precisely to avoid satellites getting caught up in such "solar outbursts" or other violent geomagnetic incidents that Digantara expects its own satellites — and the information it will send back to its ground sensors — to come to the rescue of space companies with ambitions of sending out satellites.

"We are the only start-up of its kind in India though there are competitors in the US and Canada," Rawat said, adding the gathered data can help firms that are into remote sensing and insurance where risk analysis reports will be important.

## City startup to send 40 satellites to compile space debris data

CHANDAN NANDY @ New Delhi

THE race to space has the downside of polluting it. A Bengaluru-based start-up plans to send out a constellation of 40 satellites that will gather data on space junk in the low-earth orbit (LEO).

The satellites that will be launched from early next year will gather information on millions of pieces of debris that litter LEO, which NASA describes as an "orbital space junk yard". Digantara, the start-up launched by three young engineers, has taken upon itself the mission to help

clean up LEO.

Space junk can reach speeds of up to 18,000 miles per hour, according to NASA. Many of them range from 1 cm to 10 cm in diameter. Most of these orbital debris comprise "human-generated" objects such as parts of spacecraft that have long disintegrated, rocket and satellite components, very small flecks of paint from spacecraft and whole satellites.

"The ones which are 1 cm in diameter are estimated to be a million. Besides, international space agencies have determined that they are aware of only 4% of objects in space.